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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Colombia
SUBJECT Plans of Liberal Party Vis-a-vis
the Present Government

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1. The Liberal Party is continuing its efforts to obtain as many delegates as the Conservatives to the National Constitutional Assembly.¹ Its objective in this case is to enable the party to submit its suggestions for revising the Constitution, but, more important, the party considers the opportunity it will have, if it is granted parity with the Conservatives on the Assembly, to nominate General DUARTE Blum as Vice-President of the republic.
2. Dr. Carlos LLERAS Restrepo stated on 3 April 1954 that the Liberal Party does not intend to make too great an issue with the government if it is denied parity with the Conservatives on the Assembly membership. It will continue to work for an understanding between the parties and the pacification of the country, and will co-operate with the ROJAS regime. However, its co-operation will no longer be so complete as heretofore, and all actions of President Gustavo ROJAS Pinilla will not be praised as was done in the past. The Liberal Party now intends to criticize openly those acts of the government and its officials with which it is not in agreement. A policy of a discreet, responsible opposition will now be initiated.

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1. Comment. It does not appear that the government will grant the Liberals an equal number of seats on the Constitutional assembly.

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